Corruption in Judiciary

3264. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN : SHRI J. S. RAJU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the emoluments of judiciary is very low and as a result of which corruptior has crept in the system ;

(b) if so, what steps Governmen) propose to take to tone up the judiciary;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of cases of corruption in judiciary which were brought to book and how many persons were convicted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The Union Government deals only with the emoluments of Supreme Court and High Court Judges. In terms of status as well as pay, allowances and perquisites, Judges enjoy a prominent place in society. As for the Subordinate Judiciary, their salaries and allowances are governed by the State Governments, are generally determined on a comparative basis with reference to other State officers of similar rank and responsibility. In any case, it would be too simplistic to pin the blame for corruption in tbe system, if any, on emoluments which are revised from time to time.

(d) The matter relating to appointment and control over subordinate courts are the concern of the respective State Government and High Court. Therefore, the number of cases of corruption in subordinate judiciary is not readily available with the Government.

Holidays in High Courts and Supreme Court

3265. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of holidays for High Courts and Supreme Court:

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to decrease the number of holidays for speedy disposal of cases;

(c) if so. what are the details thereof : and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (d) The Estimates Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) had desired a review of working days in the Supreme Court/ High Courts. The examination revealed that all High Courts were normally having 210 working days in a year. Thereafter the question of working days was examined at different intervals. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India on 25-6-86. The Chief Justice of India informed that the Supreme Court was already working for 220 days but the full court had decided to add two more working days. The views of the Chief Justice of India were communicated to the High Courts. Most of the Chief Justices were of the view that 210 working days were alright and no change was called for as Judges put in extra work in their chambers or at their residence. This was also resolved in the Chief Justices' Conference held in 1987.

Constitutional amendments on Privileges of Judges

3266. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : SHRIMATI MEERA DAS : DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering amendments *to* the constitution in view of judicial interpretation weighed in favour of judges as reflected in failure of impeachment motion against Justice Ramaswamy;

(b) whether Government's attention is drawn to critical public opinion about the way the judges enjoy their privileges ; and

(c) whether the Government has reacted in any manner on the suggestion made by F. S. Nariman that the confe rence of all judges of high courts be convened to decide on self-cleansing measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW. JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Our Constitution prescribes a well-defined procedure to safeguard the independence of Judiciary.

समुद्री तरंगों से विद्युत का उत्पादन

3267. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
श्री जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में समुद्री तरंगों से विद्युत उत्पादन की संभावनाओं के संबंध में कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया है ;